

A Coppie of
the letter sent from Fer-
rara the xxij. of Nouember.

1570.

*Ihesus dixit illis. Putatis qd hi Galelei pre-
cunctis Galeleis peccatores fuerint quia talia
passi sunt non dico vobis, immo nisi recipueritis
omnes simul perhibitis. &c. LUCÆ. 13.*

Iesus answered & said vnto the, suppo-
se ye that these Galilæans were greater sin-
ners then al the other Galileans, becau-
se they suffred suche punishment? I tell
you naie: but except ye repent, ye shall
all likewise perishe. Or those eightene
vpō which the Tower in Siloe fell & flue
them: thinke ye that they were sinners
aboue all men that dwelt in Hierusalē,
I tell you naie, but except ye repent, ye
shall all likewise perishe.

ATRVE COPIE OF
A LETTER SENT FROM FERARA
the xxij. of Nouember. 1570.

(***)



THE great and hori-
ble earthquakes, the excessive and
vnrrecouerable losses, withe the
great mortalitie and death of peo-
ple, the ruine and ouerthrowe of
an infinite number of Monasteries, Pallaces, and
other howses, and the destruction of his graces
excellencies Castell, haue altogether amased with
feare, imponerished, afflicted, and affoined the har-
tes of the poore people: in such wise, that the death
wold be more agreable vnto the, then the expecta-
tion of the like scourge to come againe. The which
made vs all thinke for a certaintye, that the ende of
the world was at hand. You shall therfore vnder-
stande, that on thursday the xi. day at x. of the clock
in the night there happened an earthquake whiche
endured the space of an Aue Marie (as the Italian
phrase is) whereby manye Chymneyes of howses
fell down. And within a litle while after another
earthquake was heard. In the whole vntill the a clock
in the morninge there happened xiiij. earthqua-
kes wherewith many howses were ouerthrowen.
The frydaye folowinge which was the xiiij. of the

The earthquakes of Ferrara.

sayde moneth the earth quaked all the whole daye.
If it had bene but thisse in one houre. what a noi-
se and dreadfull feare with lamentable waylings
might it haue made thinke you: But in dede al tho-
se were none in comparison of that whiche happe-
ned in the night at iij. of the clocke: whereby y^e state
of elem^ete became obscure & darke: There rose a ve-
hement & great windes at iij. of the clocke, the ele-
ment was cleare, & the mone rose & appeared with
a comete ioyned to it, hauing a tayle two fadomes
longe to mens iudgement, & within an houre after
which was at v. of the clocke: suche obscuritie and
darkenes was in the element that one man coulde
not see an other. And sodenlye arose diuers earth-
quakes. Of whiche one continued the space of an
houre & then fell the Castle & the Bishops howse,
and the Palace de la Ragon, xij. Monasteries, &
Paulle with diuers churches and palatces, & an in-
finite number of houses. O God what a lamenta-
ble thinge was this, what ruinous ouerthrowes
& terrible dreades happened. The Duke & the Du-
ches went speedilie to a garden of theirs withoute
Ferrara. And caused a Pavilio to be pyched, wher-
in they remainned: three of his graces pages & iij.
of y^e Duchesses were slayne with the houses of the
Castell y^e fell vpon them, & many other officers that
could not escape away in tyme. I my self at y^e instant
was in my chamber sitting at the table which was

The earthquakes of Ferrara.

raised by a fadom in height, & I fell downe & perceived the toppe of the house fallen and the fountain & breake in peeces: wherewith being affoynded I lept out at the window in a maner a pikes length to the ground, & withdrew my selfe into the new market place whiche is greate without measure. I lefte my golde and syluer behinde me, thinking my selfe happie to haue saued my life. I found in the sayde newe market place more then vi. thousand persons men and woman whiche had their children in their armes making such a lamentable noise that it was heard (as certen countrey men reported) x. Italian miles of. we were all on our knees praying & sayinge many prayers on eache parte y it was merueilous to heare. And no doubt but that any stonye harte would haue bene moued to pytie & compassion thereby. And being on our knees, aboue vi. tymes we fell on the ground merueilouslye shaken & tossed with y earthquakes. And continued so vntyll laterdaye at x. of the clocke in the night and two a clocke in the morninge. I leaue the consideration of the pytyfull lamentacion of noble gentlewomen & others, & the clamorous cryinge out of the people with execrable cursinge of the Duke, seing their houses abound & flowe with wyne & corne and all thinges appertayning to the State (I saye) of gentill and honorable, and in one houre to be depriued and bereft of all and empoverished.

The earthquakes of Ferrara.

nerished altogether. They are in dede matters
woythie to be remembred and noted of vs. The pry-
son fell down & the prisoners escaped: wherefore
gates were shutte, & none could p̄sue out, many
leaped ouer the walles, and by the meanes saved
thē selues. At my comming I shall recoumpt eue-
ry thing to you at large: But syue shetes of paper wil
not suffice to write the whole matter. The Duke
gaue commaundemente, that euery man might
bake breade in their howses, whiche was a token
that he began to remember his couctous & greedy
errour. In dede his cruell tyrannyes were the oc-
casion of all these rupnes. Do not you thinke it a
great matter that he had solde all the taxes or tri-
butes vnto a Venetian gentleman of his name Il
Sforza, And none afoze could bake any breade vpo
a great payne without his commission: Also if one
dyd weare a payre of newe shoes without paying
taxe or tribute he lost L. d. Italian, & should suffer
thre pulles with the cōrd afterward, was not this
a rancuous suckinge of the cōmon peoples bloud?
Marke whether God reuealed not these things to
come by the Dukes Secretarpe named M. Iohn
Baptist Pigna a very learned man, a great philo-
sopher, and braue & conninge Astrologier: who the
sondaye before whiche was the xij. of this presents
moneth framed these woordes vnto the Duke his
Maister, My Lord I percepue, that the people do
A. iij. greatly

The earthquakes of Ferrara.

greatly murmur against your grace which if you
redresse not I doubt (no I am very sure) that this
weeke will not be ended before you shall see verie
earthlye and heauenlye tokens as might be earth-
quakes: The Duke answered, it was tolde me
that there should haue bene earthquakes in Maye
past, and yet there was none sene. My Secretarye
without other Replie sayde, God graunte there
happen none. And the Secretarye the day before the
earthquake, went from Ferrara and caried all hys
truffe with him and all that was in hys house, ha-
uing build a goodly Palace a little while before,
the which was also ouerthrowen. The earthquakes
are numbred to haue bene a hundred and foure in
xl. houres. Yet for all these, they ceased not, but on
Tuesdaye the xxi. of the moneth in the mornynge,
there were iiii. other greete earthquakes, where-
with many houses that stood not ouerthrowne,
thoughe shaken and torne, fell to the ground. And
it is sayd, y this earthquake shall endure xl. dayes.
To morrow I take my iourney toward you, and
then will reporte you thereof at large. This Citie
is smother like a rased or shauen table, a man can
not walke by the streets, halfe the houses are fal-
lendowne, the rest haue bene shaken likewise. And
if the earthquake do continue, you may read what
will come thereof. The Duke and Duchesse make
their abode as yet vnder the pavilion, the reporte
more

2

The earthquakes of Ferrara.

goeth, that they will come and lie at Mantua. And
he for me to morowe, for I am in dread that of ne-
wer so litle a puffe of winde will growe an earth-
quake. The iuste number of the people that
be Rayne is not known. It is
thought to be aboute.)

Castelles Churches, Mo-
nasteries, chiefe Pal-
laces all fallen to ruine.

THE bodye of the Castle fallen to ruine.
The whole Palaice de la Ragon withe all
the shoppes about it fallen.

S. Paule fallen to ruine:

S. Fraunces in a manner all fallen.

S. Iohn Baptist the chiefe Church all fallen.

All the bishops lodginge fallen downe.

All the walles of the nunrye called Sor de Christo
towards the Cardinall of Est, fallen downe.

All the caues and cellers where Malmesey is solde
in S. Paule and where the hosiers dwel, are fallen
downe.

The steple of the house of the Religion called cer-
tosa fallen.

4

The earthquakes of Ferrara.

greatly murmur against your grace which if you
redresse not I doubt (no I am very sure) that this
weeke will not be ended before you shall see verie
earthlye and heauenlye tokens as might be earth-
quakes: The Duke answered, it was tolde me
that there should haue bene earthquakes in Maye
past, and yet there was none sene. M. Secretarie
without other Replie sayde, God graunte there
happen none. And the Secretary the day before the
earthquake, went from Ferrara and caried all hys
Ruffe with him and all that was in hys house, ha-
uing builte a goodly Palace a little while before,
the which was also ouerthrowne. The earthquakes
are numbred to haue bene a hundred and foure in
xl. houres. Yet for all these, they ceased not, but on
Tuesdaye the xxi. of the moneth in the mornynge,
there were iiii. other greete earthquakes, where-
with many houses that stode not ouerthrowne,
thoughe shaken and torne, fell to the ground. And
it is sayd, y this earthquake shall endure xl. dayes.
To morrow I take my iourney toward you, and
then will reporte you thereof at large. This Citie
is smothe like a rased or shauen table, a man can
not walke by the streets, halfe the houses are fal-
lendowne, the rest haue bene shaken likewise. And
if the earthquake do continue, you may read what
will come thereof. The Duke and Duches make
their abode as yet vnder the panilion, the reporte
more

The earthquakes of Ferrara.

goeth, that they will come and lie at Mantua. Look
ke for me to morowe, for I am in dread that of ne-
wer so little a puffe of winde will growe an earth-
quake. The iuste number of the people that
be slayne is not known. It is
thought to be aboute.)

Castelles Churches, Mo-
nasteries, chiefe Pal-
laces all fallen to ruine.

THE bodye of the Castle fallen to ruine.
The whole Palaice de la Ragon withe all
the shoppes about it fallen.

S. Paule fallen to ruine:

S. Fraunces in a manner all fallen.

S. Iohn Baptist the chiefe Church all fallen.

All the bishops lodginge fallen downe.

All the walles of the nunrye called Sor de Christo
towards the Cardinall of Est, fallen downe.

All the caues and cellers where Malmesey is solde
in S. Paule and where the hosiers dwel, are fallen
downe.

The steple of the house of the Religion called cer-
tosa fallen.



THE EARTHQUAKES OF FERARA.

A side of Saincte Benedictes Church fallen to
ruyne.

All the side of the Inne of the Bell towarde the
garden fallen to Ruine.

A part or peece of the Inne of the Angell fallen to
ruyne.

The parte of the courte where the halbardiers or
gardare.

At the Inne of the Sine with al the shops about it.

All the rowmes or places of the Sincers.

The Court of the Castle Tialto.

A peece of the Inne of the Moore.

A peece of the house of *Di Contrari*.

All the shoppes vnder the great and chiefe Church
where the Collone were, are fallen & broken
in peeces.

All the streates haue bene destroyed withoute
number and an infinite number of other
houses and Pallaices whiche are
not spoken of for breuities

sake. You shall heare
further withe
the firste.



Imprinted at London in
Paules Churchyarde, at the
signe of the Lucrece, by
Thomas Purfoote

